

OCR

31 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, DD/I Historical Board

SUBJECT : Preparation of OCR History

1. The Director of the Office of Central Reference has discussed with his division and staff chiefs the various problems in connection with producing an office history. I have acquainted these officials with the decisions and recommendations of the first meeting of the DD/I Historical Board on 4 October 1966. Accordingly, we are attempting to comply with the Board's request that we provide you with a list of historical papers to be prepared within OCR, including the titles of such papers; their scope and the topics to be covered.

2. OCR is unable to give the Board much information at this time as to who will write these studies, although we have given this question careful preliminary consideration. OCR has a minimal number of persons retiring in the near future who would in any way be qualified to write any portion of this history. The most knowledgeable personnel are in senior positions where the amount of their current work precludes their undertaking such a task at this time, and they are several years from retirement. One exception to this statement is the Chief of the Graphics Register, [redacted], who feels that he and his two senior branch chiefs would be able to produce a useful document in between one and two years' time while continuing to carry on their regular duties. Furthermore, we have not yet found any retired OCR personnel who might be approached to undertake this task. We have considered, and not yet rejected, the possibility that one full-time consultant might be found, with sufficient historical and writing background, who might be willing to undertake the complete OCR writing, utilizing documents and interviewing techniques.

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3. I have reviewed the history of OCR, 1946-52, which is in the Historical Staff files. It is a good start, but I feel that it needs considerable reworking, and it must be updated. We are presently unable to indicate who will write the overall narrative OCR history. However, I will do a short monograph on the Historical Intelligence Collection.

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4. Each of the OCR divisions and staffs has prepared outlines of its concept of the scope of the history and monographs of such components. These outlines are attached for your consideration. Several of them are quite comprehensive in scope; others will need reworking. In some instances, I do not feel that there has been a completely realistic evaluation of what should be narrative history and what should be historical monograph. Of the attached papers, however, I think it safe to assume that the detailed discussion of the CHIVE Task Force would probably be a monograph rather than a narrative history.

5. As the attachments are only a first shot, it would be most helpful if you could review them, not only in and of themselves, but also in the light of submissions from other DDI offices. It would appear to be useful if we could then have a Board meeting to exchange further ideas and receive your professional guidance.

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Walter Pforzheimer
OCR Member
DDI Historical Board

Attachments